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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5792
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 5683
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 5988
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1210
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4010
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5303
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1384
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 3429
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2646
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000879

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STATE FOR PM/RSAT, SCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/01/2017

TAGS: [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [IZ](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPAL ABLE BUT UNWILLING TO ASSIST IN IRAQ

REF: STATE 55436

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Robert Hugins. Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

(C) Nepal does not currently contribute troops to Iraq. It has troops with significant experience in international peacekeeping and peace enforcement. The Nepal Army might even be interested in service in Iraq, but, in Post's view, Nepal's coalition interim government has no political will to deploy troops to Iraq or to contribute civilian resources. Although news of Iraq appears on a daily basis in the Nepali media, Nepal has no significant political or economic ties to Iraq. In September 2004, rioting broke out in Kathmandu and vandals targeted Muslim businesses and perceived Muslim business after 12 Nepali laborers were killed in Iraq. The then (and current) Nepali Prime Minister, G.P. Koirala, had to appeal publicly for calm and ordered a curfew in the capital. Since 2004, it has been illegal for Nepalis to work in Iraq, although a small number of Nepalis are employed there -- some willingly as contractors for security and manpower firms and others after being trafficked. Given all the other challenges he faces at this time, Post believes that Prime Minister Koirala (who also holds the Defense portfolio) would be unwilling to deploy troops to Iraq. Even if he were to support the idea, Post sees no scenario in which his coalition partners -- particularly the Maoists, but also the center-left Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist -- would concur.

HUGINS